

Sunrise Christian Church

SCC's September 2017 family newsletter

Called as a church to **Love, Learn and Lead-** to love God with all that we have and all that we are, to learn to be like Jesus, and to lead others to the saving knowledge of Christ.

The word of God- seed for the soul



"The *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance"- **Luke 8:15.**

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By definition, a **parable** is a simple story using common everyday events to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

Jesus' parable of the soils

⁴ When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵ "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. ⁸ Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

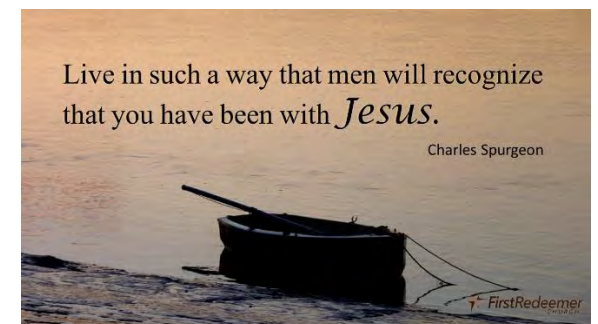
⁹ His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant. ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil

comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky *soil* are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance- **Luke 8:4-15, NASB.**

We need to stop and ask ourselves which kind of soil we are- packed-down like a trail, or a hard rocky spot, or thistle loaded, or are we the good soil? The evidence is seen in how God's word is working in our lives.

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The gift of service:

The story is told of a missionary in Africa who received a very special gift for his birthday. Seems his African friend could not afford to buy the missionary a gift, so he decided to give him a seashell.

The missionary was taken back when he opened his gift, for he knew that if the seashell had been purchased in a market that it would cost his friend a lot of money.

“No, my friend, I walked to the beach to get it,” his African friend said.

This set the missionary back even more, for he knew that the beach was a five-hour journey away. So he protested that his friend should not have done that; that it was simply too far to walk for a gift.

“No, my friend,” the African said, “the journey was part of the gift!”

Love means being willing to give; it also means being willing to pay the cost.

So a good mother loves her child, and thus is willing to get up from her own sleep to comfort her restless child.

Yes, she needs and wants her sleep, but her child is more important to her than is the sleep she’ll lose. In fact, it never even crosses her mind; she simply wants what’s best for her child.

And what about dad? He goes to work every day in order that his family has a roof over their heads and food on the table.

He may not even like his work, but he diligently works at it because he loves his family.

What about the church member? Since they love Christ, they also love the church. And because of this love they’re willing to serve the church and its members. The cost of their service is simply their gift to the Christ.

Thus, we are instructed: **“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father”**- Colossians 3:17.

Tithing thoughts:

As we grow in maturity we learn to put money in its proper place- it’s important, just not the most important!

In writing to the church, the apostle Paul promises: “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed”- 2 Cor. 9:8.

Thus, our tithing is our trusting- trusting God to take care of us!



Liquid, Fragile or Perishable?

A woman decided to send the family Bible to her brother living in another state.

At the Post Office, a postal worker asked if there was anything breakable in her package.

After thinking about it for a moment, she replied with a grin: "Only the Ten Commandments!"



Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment of bringing something that represented their religion.

The first child got up in front of the class and said, "Hi. My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish. This is a Star of David."

The second student got in front of the class and said, "My name is Sally. I'm am a Catholic and this is a Crucifix."

The third child, a young boy, got in front of the class and said, " My name is Tommy. I am Baptist and this is a casserole."

Coming events:

*Faithful Men **men’s breakfast**- 7:30am, Saturday, Sept. 2, at Rusty’s.

***Baskets of Love** food donations- Sunday, Sept. 3.

***Crock Pot Sunday**- Sunday, Sept. 3.

*SCC’s service at **Wellsprings**- 3pm, Sundays during September.

*SCC’s **Wednesday Night Bible Fellowship** resumes- 7pm, Wednesday, Sept. 6.

*Cove Christian Camp’s **Women’s Retreat**- Friday afternoon and Saturday, Sept. 22-23.

*BBC’s inauguration of **BBC’s next president**- Dr. Derek Voorhees, 5:30pm, Friday, Sept. 22.

*Hope Pregnancy Center’s **Walk for Life**- Saturday, Sept. 30.